

FORAGE SUITABILITY GROUP

Sand

FSG No.: G055CY300SD

Major Land Resource Area: 55C - Southern Black Glaciated Plains

Physiographic Features

The soils in this group are found on upland slopes, stream terraces, and flood plains.

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Elevation (feet):	1300	1970
Slope (percent):	0	9
Flooding:		
Frequency:	None	None
Duration:	None	None
Ponding:		
Depth (inches):		
Frequency:	None	None
Duration:	None	None
Runoff Class:	Very low	Very low

Climatic Features

This group occurs in a mid-continental climate characterized by wide seasonal temperature and precipitation fluctuations and extremes.

Annual precipitation varies widely from year to year in MLRA 55C. Average annual precipitation for all climate stations listed below is about 21 inches. About 75 percent of that occurs during the months of April through September. On average, there are about 28 days with greater than .1 inches of precipitation during the same timeframe. Annual precipitation and temperature increase from the north to the south in the MLRA.

Average annual snowfall ranges from 23 inches at Pickstown to 41 inches at Huron. Snow cover at depths greater than 1 inch range from 32 days at Howard to 72 days at Huron.

Average July temperatures are about 75°F and average January temperatures are about 16°F. Recorded temperature extremes in the MLRA during the years 1961 to 1990 are a low of -39 at both Mellette and Huron, and a high of 114 recorded at Mellette. The MLRA lies mostly in USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 4a and 4b, with a small area of warmer 5a along the Missouri River.

At Huron, the average annual wind speeds are about 11.5 mph. The highest wind speeds occur during March through May. It is cloudy about 154 days a year. Average morning relative humidity in June is about 86 percent and average afternoon humidity is 59 percent.

The climate data listed in the tables below represent high and low ranges and averages for the climate stations and dates listed. For additional climate data, access the National Water and Climate Center at <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>.

	From	To
Freeze-free period (28 deg)(days): (9 years in 10 at least)	128	161
Last Killing Freeze in Spring (28 deg): (1 year in 10 later than)	May 19	May 07
Last Frost in Spring (32 deg): (1 year in 10 later than)	May 31	May 18

First Frost in Fall (32 deg): (1 year in 10 earlier than)	From Sep 08	To Sep 23
First Killing Freeze in Fall (28 deg): (1 year in 10 earlier than)	Sep 16	Oct 04
Length of Growing Season (32 deg)(days): (9 years in 10 at least)	105	136
Growing Degree Days (40 deg):	4360	5304
Growing Degree Days (50 deg):	2763	3192
Annual Minimum Temperature:	-30	-20
Mean annual precipitation (inches):	18	22

Monthly precipitation (inches) and temperature (F)

2 years in 10:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Precip. Less Than	0.12	0.18	0.36	0.85	1.28	1.35	1.40	0.94	0.52	0.43	0.18	0.20
Precip. More Than	0.93	1.28	2.56	3.74	5.15	5.28	4.68	3.53	4.20	2.68	1.90	1.38
Monthly Average:	0.44	0.61	1.48	2.32	3.11	3.56	2.72	2.27	2.10	1.47	0.80	0.56
Temp. Min.	-1.5	4.9	18.8	31.6	43.3	53.4	58.8	55.4	44.1	32.5	18.7	4.1
Temp. Max.	30.6	36.4	47.0	62.4	73.4	83.0	90.4	88.6	78.2	65.5	46.7	33.4
Temp. Avg.	15.8	21.8	33.4	47.8	59.3	69.0	75.2	72.9	62.3	50.2	33.9	17.7

<u>Climate Station</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
SD0043	Academy, SD	1961	1990
SD4037	Howard, SD	1961	1990
SD4127	Huron, SD	1961	1990
SD5456	Mellette, SD	1961	1990
SD5561	Miller, SD	1961	1990
SD6574	Pickstown, SD	1961	1990
SD7052	Redfield, SD	1961	1990
SD8767	Wagner, SD	1961	1990

Soil Interpretations

This group consists of very deep, moderately well to excessively drained, coarse textured soils formed in sandy eolian and alluvial materials. Permeability is rapid.

Drainage Class:	Moderately well drained	To	Excessively drained
Permeability Class: (0 - 40 inches)	Rapid	To	Rapid
Frost Action Class:	Low	To	Moderate

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Depth:	72	
Surface Fragments >3" (% Cover):	0	0
Organic Matter (percent): (surface layer)	0.5	3.0
Electrical Conductivity (mmhos/cm): (0 - 24 inches)	0	0
Sodium Absorption Ratio: (0 - 12 inches)	0	0
Soil Reaction (1:1) Water (pH): (0 - 12 inches)	5.1	7.3
Available Water Capacity (inches): (0 - 60 inches)	3	6
Calcium Carbonate Equivalent (percent): (0 - 12 inches)	0	3

Adapted Species List

The following forage species are considered adapted to grow on the soils in this group. Additional information concerning plant characteristics of a number of the listed species as well as individual cultivars of many of those species can be accessed at <http://plants.usda.gov/>.

Cool Season Grasses

Altai wildrye	F
Canada wildrye	G
Crested wheatgrass	F
Green needlegrass	F
Intermediate wheatgrass	G
Meadow bromegrass	G
Newhy hybrid wheatgrass	G
Pubescent wheatgrass	G
Russian wildrye	F
Slender wheatgrass	F
Smooth bromegrass	F
Tall wheatgrass	F
Western wheatgrass	F

Warm Season Grasses

Big bluestem	F
Indiangrass	F
Little bluestem	G
Prairie sandreed	G
Sand bluestem	G
Sideoats grama	F
Switchgrass	F

Legumes

Alfalfa	F
Canada milkvetch	F
Cicer milkvetch	G
Purple prairieclover	G
Sainfoin	F
Sweetclover	F
White prairieclover	G

G - Good adaptation for forage production on this group of soils in this MLRA

F - Fair adaptation but will not produce at its highest potential

Production Estimates

Production estimates listed here should only be used for making general management recommendations. Onsite production information should always be used for making detailed planning and management recommendations.

The high forage production estimates listed below are based on dense, vigorous stands of climatically adapted, superior performing cultivars. They are properly fertilized for high yields and pest infestations are kept below economic thresholds. Mechanical harvests are managed to maintain stand life by cutting at appropriate stages of maturity and harvest intervals. If grazed, optimum beginning and ending grazing heights are adhered to. Adequate time is allowed for plant recovery before entering winter dormancy under both uses.

The production estimates listed below represent total annual above ground plant production on an air-dry-matter basis. Estimates of hay and grazing yields can be calculated from these numbers by multiplying them by a harvest efficiency. A 70 percent harvest efficiency is commonly used when converting to hay yields. Pasture harvest efficiency is highly dependent on the grazing management system applied, ranging from 25 to 50 percent.

Forage Crop**Management Intensity**

	High (lbs/ac)	Low (lbs/ac)
Alfalfa	5100	2600
Alfalfa/Intermediate wheatgrass	4000	2200
Intermediate wheatgrass	3400	2000
Sand bluestem	5100	2600

Forage Growth Curves

Growth curves estimate the seasonal distribution of growth of the various forage crops. They indicate when the forages may be available for grazing or mechanical harvest.

Growth Curve Number: SD0001

Growth Curve Name: Alfalfa

Growth Curve Description: Alfalfa, MLRAs 107, 102B, 63B, 66, 65

Percent Production by Month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	5	30	25	20	15	5	0	0	0

Growth Curve Number: SD0004
Growth Curve Name: Cool season grass
Growth Curve Description: Cool season grass, statewide

Percent Production by Month

<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>
0	0	0	10	40	30	10	5	5	0	0	0

Growth Curve Number: SD0005
Growth Curve Name: Warm season grass
Growth Curve Description: Warm season grass, statewide

Percent Production by Month

<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>
0	0	0	0	10	40	35	15	0	0	0	0

Soil Limitations

Soil blowing is a severe hazard during stand establishment or renovation of forage stands on the soils of this group. Bare areas where livestock concentrate are also susceptible. Production potential is low to moderate due to the low available water capacity and droughtiness of these soils. Also, these soils are typically low in native fertility and have reduced capacity to supply plant nutrients. Species choices are somewhat limited for pasture and hayland for these same reasons.

Management Interpretations

The impact on yields of the low available water capacity of these soils can be reduced by selecting forage species that are highly tolerant to periods of drought and inadequate soil moisture and can grow on coarse soils. Incorporate wind erosion control practices during stand establishment. Properly locating facilitating practices such as fences, lanes, and water developments can help control livestock movement, reduce trailing perpendicular to steeper slopes, evenly distribute grazing pressure, and reduce bare areas.

FSG Documentation**Similar FSGs:**

<u>FSG ID</u>	<u>FSG Narrative</u>
G055CY130S	Very Droughty Loam soils have finer textures than sands.

Inventory Data References

Agriculture Handbook 296-Land Resource Regions and Major Land Resource Areas
 Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) National Water and Climate Center data
 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone maps
 National Soil Survey Information System (NASIS) for soil surveys in South Dakota counties in MLRA 55C
 NRCS South Dakota Technical Guide
 NRCS National Range and Pasture Handbook
 Various Agricultural Research Service, Cooperative Extension Service, and NRCS research trials for plant adaptation and production.

State Correlation

This site has been correlated with the following states: South Dakota

Forage Suitability Group Approval

Original Author: Tim Nordquist
Original Date: 2/5/02
Approval by: Dave Schmidt
Approval Date: 10/24/02